

**In the Specification:**

Page 9, last paragraph, lines 10-12, cancel in its entirety and replace with a new paragraph as follows:

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A1 -- As shown in the drawings, in the first upper blade drum 1, on which the upper blade 8 is mounted, the radial distance from the drum rotational axis to the drum periphery opposite the blade diameter 12 is noticeably smaller than the radial distance from the drum rotational axis to the drum periphery having the blade diameter 12. Therefore, the shear can be brought into a position in which a large opening or gap is formed between the drum 1 and the upper edge of the roll table along which the strip 10 is advanced. A large opening is needed, during entering and passing through of the strip head, as the strip head, for bending up of the front end, is inclined, in a manner of a ski, and with a smaller gap, the strip can be damaged in the region of the shear. --.

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Page 11, between the first complete paragraph (lines 3-7) and the second complete paragraph (lines 8-12), insert a new paragraph as follows:

A2

-- To this end, in *per se* known manner, the tooth gear 9, which is associated with the second lower drum 2, is formed of two gear portions 9a and 9b. For eliminating the backlash, the gear portions 9a, 9b are rotated relative to each other by a fraction of an angle and are secured to each other with bolts 9c. --.

**In the Drawings:**

Amend Figs. 3a, 3b as indicated in red in the attached copy of these figures.

**In the Claims:**

Cancel claims 1 through 9 without prejudice.

Add claims 10-17 as follows:

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comprising:

10. A high-speed shear for transverse cutting of a rolled strip
- a shear frame;